

CPYRGHT

FOIAb3b

Link With CIA Admitted By National Student Assn.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14 (AP) —A student organization affiliated with most of the nation's major colleges today disclosed that it had a secret relationship with the Central Intelligence Agency for more than 10 years.

During that time, the CIA contributed "substantial funds" to the organization—the National Student Assn.—to help finance its overseas activities.

"The relationship apparently originated because the Central Intelligence Agency believed that a strong American national union of students acting internationally was in the national interest," said a spokesman for the NSA.

Ramparts magazine put the spotlight on the covert relationship between the nation's top intelligence agency and a student organization with 300 college affiliates.

NEWSPAPER ADS

Full-page newspaper advertisements by the magazine announcing a forthcoming article were published today and touched off frenzied activity in the NSA's Washington headquarters.

The ads said that in its March issue, Ramparts "will document how the CIA has infiltrated and subverted the world of American student leaders . . . (and) has interfered, in a most shocking manner, in the internal workings of the nation's oldest and largest student organization."

The CIA is the government's big espionage and intelligence agency.

KNOWN TO FEW

Besieged by newsmen, NSA President Eugene Groves retreated to the top floor of the four-story converted dwelling where he was inaccessible. But the association's international affairs vice president, Richard G. Stearns, guardedly answered

questions.

He said the relationship was known only to two or three of the association's top officers at any time, and generally only after they took office.

The decision to terminate the tie was made in 1965 by the then president, Philip Scherbourne, now a student at Harvard Law School, and his international vice president, Charles Goldmark, now with an international student group in Holland.

"It was decided the relationship was intolerable in a democratic society," Stearns said.

Because of the extensive financial commitment to the CIA, it took two years to completely disengage, he said, adding that the break became complete this year.

Stearns said he understood the CIA contribution ran around \$200,000 a year at the beginning in the early 1950s, and was about \$50,000 when the ties were cut. The total NSA budget was about \$700,000 a year during the period, he said.

Stearns would not answer questions about how the CIA worked with the organization. He said the NSA employed former students to represent it in international conferences, maintaining three in Europe and one in Africa.

"The CIA was just interested in getting the United States' point of view across at these conferences," Stearns said. He denied that the U.S. representatives were picked by the CIA or that they had to meet any ideological test.

Stearns said there were discussions with the CIA about terminating the relationship but that no pressure was applied by the agency to keep the ties.

Stearns said a statement explaining the NSA involvement with the CIA is being sent to the 300 campuses with which it is affiliated. And an emergency meeting of the 10-member advisory board has been called for tonight in Washington to discuss the repercussions of the disclosure.

FOIAb3b